

Town Of Erie Water Conservation Program

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Introduction

It is the Town of Erie's goal to actively manage the water situation, to provide our customers with high quality water and excellent service, to advise the Board of Trustees when conditions warrant, and to be stewards for water-wise practices.

Cambridge Dictionary

drought (noun): a long period when there is little or no rain. *This year (a) severe drought has ruined the crops.*

Drought is a condition that affects every aspect of the Town's water operations. Drought is a condition that affects some of our water rights in terms of development (*Will nature produce water and how much?*), delivery (*Can it be delivered to us?*), and demand (*Dry conditions generate additional water demand*). Drought is a condition that affects us all. As stewards of wise-water use and conservation practices, we ask all Erie water customers to be mindful of their civic role to conserve water during a drought.

Promulgation of Water Conservation Program

- The Water Conservation Program is incorporated via the Water Ordinance (Ordinance No. 808). It was adopted by the Board of Trustees via Ordinance No. 810.
- Mandatory water conservation will be enacted by the Board of Trustees and conducted by the Town Administrator via Resolution; otherwise water conservation is voluntary. The Resolution will mandate water conservation for a specific term.
- Through the Resolution, the Town Administrator declares the mandated action level.
- The Water Ordinance and Resolution enacting mandatory water conservation shall over-ride homeowner association rules, covenants, regulations, and policies.
- Well water and other water not delivered by the Town's water system will not be regulated by this Water Conservation Program.

Implementation of Water Conservation Program

When certain "trigger" conditions are reached, we will react in kind to implement planned, water reduction actions (water conservation action levels).

Trigger Condition for Action Levels

1. Current Water Supply

Water carryover (unused in one water year and carried over to the next water year) is essential for proper water planning.

2. Area-wide Assessment

The Town wishes to be a responsible partner with the surrounding communities to be an active steward of wise water use and conservation. The Town is mindful of its civic role to conserve water to create the best possibility for all citizens to endure drought conditions in the best circumstances.

3. Raw Water Storage Status

Available raw water stored in Town of Erie reservoirs.

4. Potable Water Demand

Projected water demands and affect of weather conditions on those demands.

5. Potable Water Production

Monitor water treatment capability and output. Ensure high water quality.

6. Potable Water Storage Status

Available potable stored in Town of Erie storage tanks and distribution lines.

Trigger conditions may change annually or even more frequently. Staff will evaluate these factors and advise the Town Administrator who may declare a mandatory water conservation action level (**Table 1**). Staff will report to the Board of Trustees the standards that were used for moving from one Action Level to another.

Dissemination of Information to our Customers

- News media releases.
- Erie Government Television (Channel 8).
- Informational inserts in water bills.
- Posting on the Town's website.
- Neighborhood Watch.
- Established Water Conservation Hotline.
- Public address systems in police vehicles. (Level III and emergencies)
- Reverse 911 calls for water emergency. (Level III and emergencies)

Waste of Water

Waste of water is prohibited as defined and provided in the Water Ordinance.

Schools, Parks, and HOA's

Schools, Parks, HOAs, and other public units with large areas of property, are eligible for administrative review to qualify for schedule adjustments.

Enforcement

Enforcement of mandated water conservation action levels would be conducted through the Town of Erie Police Department.

Penalties

The Board of Trustees may elect to make the voluntary Water Conservation Program and subsequent action level(s) mandatory if conditions warrant. If the program becomes mandatory, violations of the provisions of the Water Conservation Program shall be subject to the following penalties:

Infraction	Penalty
1st Violation	Written Warning
2nd Violation*	Written notification and \$100 charge to utility bill
3rd Violation*	Written notification and \$200 charge to utility bill
4th and Subsequent Violations*	Written notification and \$400 charge to utility bill /flow restrictor installed thru the end of mandatory water conservation period**

* Violation within a twelve (12) month period.

** If you have an indoor meter, you have 5 days to set arrangements to install flow restrictor. Any surcharge or fine as provided herein shall be in addition to any other penalties or violations as permitted pursuant to the Water Ordinance. Tampering with an installed flow restrictor will be subject to suspension of water service to the premises and prosecution in municipal court pursuant to the Water Ordinance.

Appeal Process

If the owner/occupant at the service address decides to contest the penalty(ies), then he/she may, within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date of the water bill upon which the charge appears, request that a citation be issued and that the issue be decided in municipal court. Failure to make such a request shall constitute a waiver of any right to appeal the notice of violation or the penalty assessed therefore.

Planning for the Future

- Continued efforts to develop water conservation education.
- Continued raw water planning and operations (rights, leases, delivery, storage, etc.).
- Continued potable water planning and operations (treatment, distribution, storage, etc.).
- Appropriate review of water rates; restructure to encourage water conservation.
- Model landscape code to incorporate water conserving landscaping and plant materials.
- Monitor water billings to identify large water users and help them develop water conservation plans.
- Assist developments/subdivisions in acquiring raw water sources for use in construction/irrigation activities.